

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for finding patients suitable for enrolling patients in a clinical medical study; from a plurality of hospitals, the system comprising:

a plurality of hospital database components each being maintained by a corresponding one of the plurality of hospitals and each being operative to maintain a hospital database component and its plurality of hospital databases and its their corresponding plurality of patients and medical records, and a clinical studies database component and its their corresponding plurality of clinical medical studies;

a plurality of communications components each being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of hospital database components, to alert said hospitals to said clinical medical studies and receive changes to said hospital database components; and

a plurality of processors each being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of hospital database components and being programmed to:

update said hospital database component components;

periodically match compatible hospital patients and clinical medical studies; and

generate reports to matched medical practices in said clinical medical studies; and

a coordinator, including a coordinator database component to maintain a clinical studies database and a clinical patient database including non-identifiable information about the plurality of patients, the coordinator including a coordinator communications component, to communicate with each of the plurality of hospital communications components.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

each of said hospital database components operative to maintain a medical practice database component identifying patients associated with each said medical practice in said medical practice database component;

each of said processors programmed to:

update said hospital patient database component with data supplied by said medical practice or said hospital database component; and

generate reports to said matched medical practices to include a listing of prospective patients.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising;

a plurality of searching components each being maintained by a corresponding one of the plurality of the hospitals for searching said clinical studies database; wherein each of said

communications components is adaptable to receive queries from and query to said medical practices and hospitals via said plurality of searching components.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, further comprising:
each of said hospital database components operative to maintain a fee database component identifying fees associated with procedures performed by medical specialties; and

each of said processors programmed to calculate a total fee to be paid to each said medical practice and each said hospital participating in each said clinical ~~medical~~ study utilizing said fee database component.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, further comprising:
each of said fee database components operative to maintain a doctor's fee database component identifying fees associated with doctor's procedures as part of said clinical ~~medical~~ studies and an ancillary fee database component identifying fees associated with miscellaneous charges associated with said clinical ~~medical~~ studies; and each of said processors programmed to calculate said total fee from said doctor's fee database component and said ancillary fee database component.

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein each of said processors is programmed to generate a billing statement based upon said total fee and a number of patients actually enrolled in one of said plurality of clinical ~~medical~~ studies.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein each of said processors is programmed to generate a time metric of completed components of the clinical ~~medical~~ study, including a time for enrollment of a patient.

8. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for matching patients to clinical ~~medical~~ studies, comprising:

identifying at least one hospital from a plurality of hospitals, each of the hospitals having a hospital database component to maintain a hospital database and its corresponding plurality of patients and medical records and a clinical studies database and its corresponding plurality of clinical studies;

identifying at least one clinical study from a plurality of clinical studies;

maintaining a coordinator database at a coordinator identifying each of said plurality of hospitals and each of said plurality of clinical studies study; and

comparing said one hospital and its hospital database to said one clinical study studies and matching one to the other.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles associated with each of said plurality of hospitals; and notifying one of said plurality of hospitals of said patient profiles that match the requirements of said clinical studies.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
confirming participation of a patient of a matched patient profile in said notifying step in one of said clinical studies.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
maintaining on said database costs incurred by each of a plurality of said medical practice in performing procedures specified by said clinical study; and
calculating a cost for performing said clinical study.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
generating and sending a billing statement to an entity responsible for initiating said clinical study.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
maintaining on said coordinator database doctor costs and ancillary costs incurred by said hospital in performing procedures specified by said clinical studies;
calculating a cost for coordinating and performing said clinical studies;
generating and sending a billing statement to entities responsible for initiating said clinical studies; and
determining a percentage of costs attributable to the a coordinator and to said hospitals performing said clinical studies.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
maintaining on said coordinator database costs for performing procedures typically specified by said clinical studies;
inputting to said coordinator database procedures required by said clinical studies; and
estimating a cost for implementing said clinical studies.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
posting said at least one clinical study on a network accessible computer for review by prospective medical practices and prospective hospitals; and
communicating interest by said prospective hospitals and said prospective patients to the a coordinator.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 ~~claim 8~~, further comprising:
searching on a network accessible by each of the plurality of prospective hospitals;
and

communicating interest by each of said plurality of ~~prospective~~ medical practices to ~~the~~ a coordinator.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
 - generating a time deadline for performing a procedure ~~procedures typically~~ specified by said one identified clinical study ~~studies~~;
 - inputting a completion date for said procedure; and
 - generating a metric report comparing said completion date ~~dates~~ with said time deadline ~~deadlines~~.